

# Call for Expression of Interest: Creating new FabSpace services June 20th 2017

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*We live in an era of an almost limitless availability of data, spatial data included. At the core of the development of the now emerging (geo)information society is the ability to convert the “raw” data into useful information and knowledge. The ability to use the potential of the available spatial data and to create innovative geo-information applications that change the world around us, the society and ourselves, is essential for the effectiveness of sustainable development, for rational spatial planning and for increasing the European innovativeness.*

*FabSpace 2.0 aims at making Universities open innovation centres for their region and at improving their contribution to the socio-economic and environmental performance of societies by exploiting Earth Observation data and geospatial information. In a collaborative research environment within Universities, students and researchers will get in contact with end-users’ needs and will have the possibility to rapidly prototype innovative EO-Earth Observation applications and services, exploiting free Sentinel Data and Copernicus Core Services.*

*The initial network of FabSpace 2.0 partners consists of six centres (in France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Greece and Poland), each one composed by a local University and the local ESA BIC-Business Incubation Centre, and it is now expanding.*

***Your Organization can now become one of them.... and be part of  
the core group of the FabSpace 2.0 Network***

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*Experience a new journey into open innovation based on geo-spatial and Earth Observation data.*

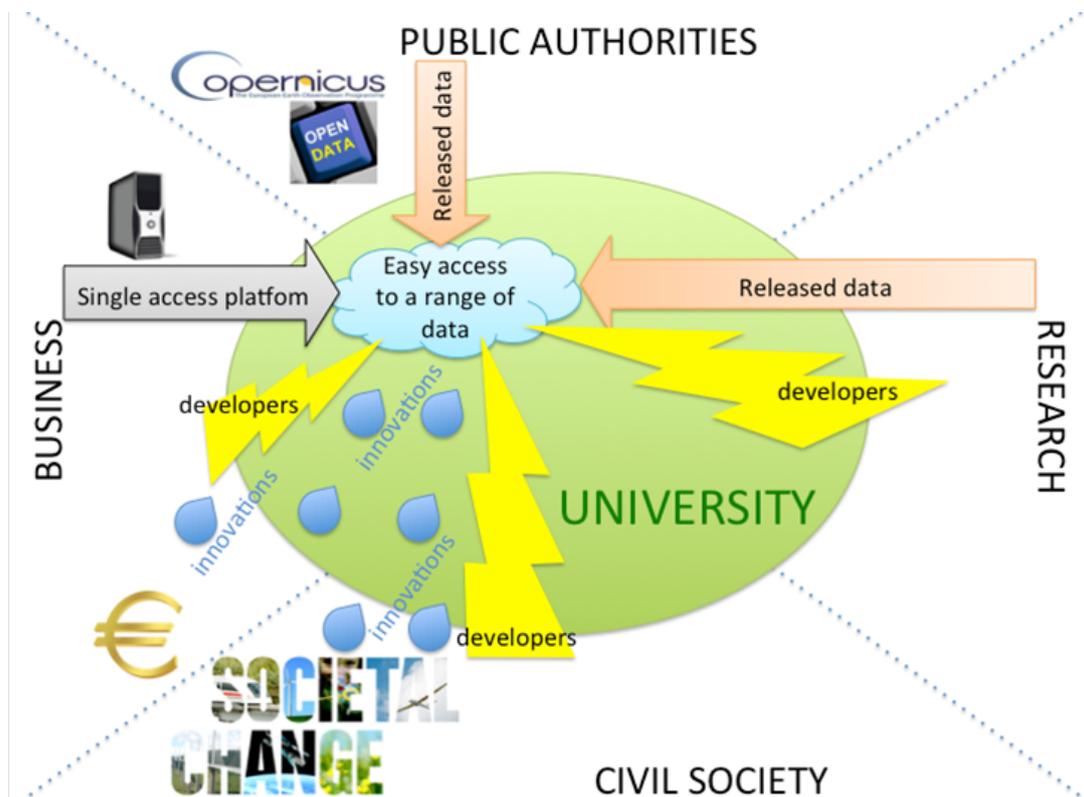
*Please read the attached information package and feel free to ask questions and clarifications to Mr Marcello Maranesi (Univ. of Rome Tor Vergata [maranesimarcello@gmail.com](mailto:maranesimarcello@gmail.com) ) and Mrs Aurélie Baker (ESA BIC Sud France – Aerospace Valley: [baker@aerospace-valley.com](mailto:baker@aerospace-valley.com))*



### What is FabSpace 2.0?

FabSpace 2.0 is an international project carried out within the Horizon 2020 Program financed by the European Union. Its goal is to create innovative applications and services using open spatial data and geo-information technologies.

FabSpace 2.0 means interdisciplinary teams of young people using open source software and tools to process open spatial data to create innovative applications and geo-information services. Researchers from renowned universities provide the technical support, while ESA BICs - with years



of experience in the European market - foster useful application development and business incubation.

### What is FabSpace purpose?

- Foster the co-creation of new innovative solutions.
- Support further business development.
- Exploit, sustain and disseminate the concept.





### What do we do?

Open Days, Space Science Shops, Innovation Events (e.g. Hackathons, Start-Up Weekends, App Camps), workshops and conferences, bootcamps and many other open events are held as part of the project. Anybody interested in creating innovative applications and services using open spatial data can take advantage of the available, free of charge, geo-information platform, consult their ideas with experts, or take part in gamification using mobile application based on digital maps. The most interesting ideas could be backed by companies participating in FabSpace 2.0.

### What is FabSpace 2.0 made of?

The project delivers a collaborative research environment within universities enabling students and researchers to rapidly prototype innovative Earth Observation applications and services. This environment includes the following physical and virtual elements:

- **A one-stop shop**, with access to Earth Observation data and a wide range of other data as well as free software and data processing tools to develop new digital applications.
- **A free-access place & service**, where students, researchers and external users:
  - can make use of data and of a software platform for designing and testing their own applications, getting technical support;
  - can receive training to improve their capacity to process data and develop new applications with space data as well as to set up new entrepreneurship initiatives
- **An educational layer** including both in Earth Observation and entrepreneurship training
- **A network**, of students, researchers, entrepreneurs, project managers in industry and public authorities, civil society organisations and other representatives of civilians.
- **Part of two communities**, the local community and the global community of all the FabSpaces in the global network;
- **An activity**, developed and operated with the aiming at least to reach the break-even;
- **A concept currently under development**, evolving rather than being designed.

### FabSpace 2.0 sustainable approach

By providing a number of training programs, technical support and consultancy services of different type, FabSpaces are targeting to become financially self-sustained and give their students an initial job opportunity. A business plan is being developed and will be finalised on the basis of interactions with stakeholders from industry and public administrations.





### Who participates in the project?

The initial network of FabSpace 2.0 partners consists of six centres called “FabSpaces” (in France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Greece and Poland), each one composed by a local university and the local ESA BIC. During the project the number of FabSpaces will expand at least to 13 units in Europe. By the end of the project (February 28<sup>th</sup> 2019) a FabSpace 2.0 world-wide network will also be launched.

***Six European universities and ESA-BICs  
are already engaged in FabSpace 2.0:  
your Organization can now become one of them ...  
and be part of the core group of the FabSpace 2.0 Network***

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### What are the benefits for an Organization opening a new FabSpace?

- cooperation with partnering universities and incubators/accelerators in many European countries for new educational curricula and experience;
- use of the free geo-information platform to access open EO and other geo-spatial data;
- access to and cooperation with interdisciplinary project teams creating innovative services and products;
- good practices regarding educational programs and business mentoring;
- innovative application ideas for solving societal challenges with the support of Earth Observation and Geo-Information.

### Becoming a new FabSpace

We are looking for the best 7 new FabSpaces to go to the next step of the FabSpace initiative that will be based on a sustainability model that we are working on and that will share with you. By becoming part of the FabSpace 2.0 network, you can benefit from the experience gained by the current FabSpace 2.0 partners for:

- Setting-up innovative training programs for your students, both business programs for EO students and EO programs for other technical students (engineering, informatics, geology, agronomy, etc.) thus facilitating cross-fertilization for new concepts and applications.
- Facilitating your students and other countries’ students, as well your Professors and other countries’ Professors, to experience a reciprocal International education and teaching experience through inter-Universities exchange.



FabSpace 2.0 received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the grant agreement no 693210



- Becoming a crossing point between public/private potential customers of innovative applications and the researchers/students' domain and be recognized as a generator of innovation.
- Creating an opportunity for your students and researchers to get involved in concrete projects and put their capabilities and energy at work with potential customers thus inventing/creating their future job.
- Proactively developing contacts and cooperation, through FabSpace tested events and practices, with local start-ups, SMEs, Public Administrations and industry for innovative projects and initiatives to foster open innovation and generate socio-economic benefits in your society.
- Offering new education and training packages to local Public Administrations and industry that can benefit from adopting Earth Observation services for improving efficiency and effectiveness of their institutional or economic activities.
- Having visibility on new ideas, concepts and applications that you could transfer to your local situation, also applying for R&D local funding.

By opening a new FabSpace, you will have the possibility to directly follow the project activities, replicate them in your country/region and also participate to the FabSpace 2.0 European innovation events and contests, as well as participating to the bootcamps organized by the existing FabSpaces.

The selected new FabSpaces will become part of the core group of the FabSpace 2.0 Network before its further expansion at European and World-wide level. By joining now, you will have the opportunity to be involved in future FabSpace 2.0 initiatives and proposals to be presented to EU for possible funding.

Website: <http://www.fabspace.eu/>



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